

March 15, 2023

Mr. Robert Kondreck
On-Scene Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Subject: Emergency Response Report – Revision 1

La Salle Chemical Fire Site – ER La Salle, La Salle County, Illinois

EPA Contract Number: 68HE0519D0005

Task Order – Task Order Line-Item Number (TO-TOLIN): F0032-0001EA102

Document Tracking Number: 1622a

Dear Mr. Kondreck:

The Tetra Tech, Inc. Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team hereby submits this revised emergency response report for the La Salle Chemical Fire Site (the Site)—in La Salle, La Salle County, Illinois. This report summarizes the emergency response activities conducted at the Site from January 11 through January 13, 2023, and incorporates comments received from you on February 22, 2023.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me at (312) 201-7763 or via email at alexis.enright@tetratech.com.

Respectfully,

Alexis Enright Project Manager

Enclosure

cc: TO-TOLIN file

Karl Schultz, Tetra Tech Program Manager

EMERGENCY RESPONSE REPORT LA SALLE CHEMICAL FIRE SITE – ER LA SALLE, LA SALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Revision 1 March 15, 2023

Prepared for:



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 77 West Jackson Boulevard Chicago, IL 60604

Submitted by:



Tetra Tech, Inc. Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team 1 South Wacker Drive, Suite 3700 Chicago, IL 60606

EPA Contract Number:	68HE0519D0005
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1. INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tasked the Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech) Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) to perform emergency response activities associated with a fire that began on January 11, 2023, at the Carus Chemical Company (Carus) facility in La Salle, La Salle County, Illinois. Emergency response activities at the Site were authorized under EPA Contract 68HE0519D0005, Task Order – Task Order Line-Item Number (TO-TOLIN) F0032-0001EA102.

In accordance with the TO-TOLIN, EPA tasked START with following emergency response activities:

- Develop a site-specific air monitoring and sampling plan (Tetra Tech 2023a) and health and safety plan (Tetra Tech 2023b)
- Maintain a logbook and collect photographic documentation of onsite activities
- Perform air monitoring as needed
- · Collect and analyze samples as needed
- · Perform data validation of laboratory analytical results as needed
- Develop and submit a letter report summarizing the emergency response activities

In this report, Section 2 summarizes the Site background, Section 3 describes emergency response activities—including initial oversight and community air monitoring—and Section 4 summarizes the response activities. Additionally, Section 5 lists all references cited throughout this report.

For further information, this report contains four appendices and one attachment. Appendix A contains relevant figures. Appendix B contains summary tables for daily air monitoring results. Appendix C contains a photographic log of emergency response activities, and Appendix D contains START logbook notes. Lastly, Attachment 1 contains Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMAAC) reports.

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2. SITE BACKGROUND

The following sections describe the Site and its location, discuss initial response activities, and describe the organization of the response.

2.1. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Site is at 1500 8th Street in La Salle, La Salle County, Illinois (Appendix A, Figure 1). Coordinates at its approximate center are 41.3368590 degrees north latitude, -89.0858910 degrees west longitude. The facility is less than 0.5 mile west of the Little Vermilion River, which flows into the Illinois River approximately 1 mile downstream from the facility.

The Site is in a mixed-use area with light industrial, commercial, and residential properties (Appendix A, Figure 2). The northern and southern edges of the Site are bounded by 9th Street and 7th Street, respectively, with commercial and industrial properties beyond. The Matthiessen and Hegeler Superfund Site is located north of the Site and has ongoing remediation activities. The eastern side of the Site is bounded by the Little Vermillion River, and the western side is bounded by Sterling Street with residential properties and an adjacent park. The closest residential property is approximately 100 feet from the Site. Surface runoff from the Site drains to the east and south; runoff is collected by the municipal stormwater sewer system and an onsite containment pond before being discharged into the Little Vermillion River. Typically, the onsite containment pond received stormwater runoff from paved areas at the facility.

2.2. INITIAL RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

On January 11, 2023, at approximately 09:00 (National Response Center 2023), an explosion occurred at the Carus facility in La Salle, Illinois. The plant manufactures water treatment and pollution control chemicals. The plant was evacuated, and the local police department issued a shelter-in-place order surrounding the plant. The La Salle Fire Department (LFD) then responded to the fire and initiated fire suppression activities at the Site. The La Salle County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requested EPA's assistance with air monitoring. The smoke plume from the fire was deemed a threat to the surrounding community due to the potential release of smoke and contaminants into the atmosphere. There was the risk of exposure to strong oxidizers—such as potassium permanganate—which creates a caustic mixture when combined with water.

On January 11, 2023, at approximately 10:00, EPA contacted START to respond to the incident. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Robert Kondreck mobilized to the Site at 14:00. START arrived at 15:00 and received a briefing and tasking from the OSC. EPA tasked START to conduct air monitoring at discrete locations throughout the community.

2.3. RESPONSE ORGANIZATION

The LFD and La Salle Police Department responded to the incident and conducted fire suppression and public safety activities. The LFD fire chief operated as incident commander (IC) and remained in control of the Site through the emergency phase of the incident.

EPA, IEPA, and the La Salle County EMA coordinated oversight of emergency response activities. EPA also consulted with the U.S. Coast Guard, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), La Salle County Health Department, La Salle County EMA, and Carus. Finally, EPA tasked START to conduct oversight of emergency response activities and air monitoring. See Table 1 for a list of emergency response parties.

Table 1 — Site Emergency Response Parties

Party	Contacts	Description of Participation
La Salle Fire Department	Fire Chief Jerry Janick	Fire department involved in the initial fire control; acting incident commander during the initial response (additional community fire departments provided mutual assistance during the fire incident)
U.S. EPA, Region 5	Robert Kondreck, OSC Paul Ruesch, OSC	Safety officer to the incident commander throughout emergency response activities
U.S. Coast Guard	NA	Department providing environmental impact consultation for the Little Vermillion River
City of La Salle	Brent Bader	Representing the City of La Salle during emergency response activities
La Salle Police Department	NA	Police department involved in evacuation and site control/security activities
Illinois Conservation Police	Phil Wire	Providing environmental impact consultation for the Little Vermillion River and biological impacts
Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Stuart Fraser	Department providing environmental impact consultation for the Little Vermillion River
Illinois EPA Office of Emergency Response	Tony Falconio	Coordinators of oversight for the emergency response activities
Illinois Emergency Management Agency	Kathy Spellman	Coordinators of oversight for the emergency response activities

Party	Contacts	Description of Participation
Illinois Department of Public Health	Aaron Martin	Department providing health consultation for the emergency response activities
La Salle County Health Department	Christine Pozzi	Department providing health consultation for the emergency response activities
La Salle County Emergency Management Agency	Fred Moore	Coordinators of oversight for the emergency response activities
Tetra Tech START	Alexis Enright Helen Fournet	EPA contractor, performing oversight of emergency response activities and air monitoring
Carus, LLC	Joe McNamara	Potentially responsible party providing facility- specific information

Acronyms:

- EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
- NA: not available
- OSC: on-scene coordinator
- START: Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team

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3. EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

START conducted emergency response activities at the Site from January 11 through January 13, 2023, including oversight and documentation of emergency response activities as well as community air monitoring. Emergency response activities are described in the following subsections, and a photographic log is provided in Appendix C.

3.1. SITE RESPONSE OPERATIONS

On January 11, 2023, START arrived at the Site at 15:00, met with EPA at the staging area at the intersection of 8th Street and Sterling Street, and discussed Site activities.

Approximately 1,089,400 pounds of potassium permanganate were stored inside the shipping warehouse where the fire occurred. As a result of the fire, potassium permanganate product and byproduct became airborne and deposited in the form of granules around the facility. Firefighting crews used water to suppress the fire, resulting in potassium permanganate being released into the facility's storm sewer system, which was diverted to an emergency containment pond after elevated pH and chemical levels were detected by a monitoring station.

When potassium permanganate is involved in a fire, it may oxidize to form different types of manganese oxides that appear black, brown, or green depending on the oxidation state. START observed and documented discoloration on nearby homes, cars, and other properties while conducting field reconnaissance.

IEPA collected surface-water samples, wipe samples, and material from the Site. Surface-water samples were collected from the Little Vermillion River, containment pond, and the storm sewer outfall location. Wipe samples were collected from nearby residences. Material from the Site consisted of substances that were involved in the fire. Surface-water and wipe samples were also collected from inside the facility; IEPA intended to analyze the samples for inorganic and organic parameters.

IEPA also investigated reports of purple discoloration of the Little Vermillion River. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) monitored the river for discoloration and environmental impact (specifically, fish or animal deaths). The Illinois DNR did not identify discoloration or environmental impacts.

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3.2. COMMUNITY AIR MONITORING

On January 11, 2023, EPA and START conducted an initial site reconnaissance to inspect the incident area and establish perimeter air monitoring locations based on IMAAC plume models that track both the direction of the smoke plume from the facility and the particulate levels (Attachment 1).

EPA tasked START with the following air monitoring objectives: (1) document and assess the possibility of offsite migration of airborne contaminants; (2) document and assess risks to public health; and (3) evaluate the need for enhanced firefighting or plume control measures. To achieve the objectives, START used a Honeywell MultiRAE Pro to monitor concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs); the lower explosive limit (LEL); and carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), hydrogen cyanide (HCN), and oxygen (O₂) levels. START also used a handheld DustTrak HDRX Aerosol Monitor (HDRX) to monitor various size fractions of particulate matter and two Honeywell SPM Flex Gas Detectors (SPM Flex units) to monitor for hydrochloric acid (HCl) and chlorine (Cl₂).

From January 11 through January 13, 2023, START conducted roaming ambient air monitoring at fixed, discrete locations in accordance with the Site-specific air monitoring and sampling plan (Tetra Tech 2023a). Mobile air monitoring measurements at each monitoring location were recorded in the field using Survey123 and uploaded to provide EPA with a real time-viewing of monitoring results. Mobile air monitoring was conducted along Transects A and B. Based on the IMAAC plume model and field judgement, no measurements were taken along Transect C. Figure 3 in Appendix A shows for monitoring locations, and Appendix B includes daily air monitoring results. Site-specific action levels included those for Cl₂, CO, H₂S, HCl, HCN, LEL, O₂, VOCs, particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter equal to or less than 2.5 micrometers (PM_{2.5}), and particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter equal to or less than 10 micrometers (PM₁₀). Site-specific action levels and associated instrumentation used during emergency response activities are summarized in Table 2.

Air monitoring was discontinued on January 13, 2023, after the LFD declared that the fire was fully extinguished and there were no apparent odors, vapors, or other emissions outside the plant.

Table 2 — Site-Specific Air Monitoring Action Levels

Instrument(s)	Analyte	Site-Specific Action Level ¹
MultiRAE Pro	СО	25 ppm
MultiRAE Pro	H₂S	10 ppm
MultiRAE Pro	HCN	5 ppm
MultiRAE Pro	LEL	5%
MultiRAE Pro	O ₂	19.5% to 23.5%
MultiRAE Pro	VOCs	0.5 ppm
SPM Flex	Cl ₂	0.5 ppm
SPM Flex	HCI	2.5 ppm
Handheld DustTrak DRX	PM ₂₅	2.5 mg/m ³
Handheld DustTrak DRX	PM ₁₀	2.5 mg/m ³

Notes:

1. Site-specific screening levels are based on 1-hour, time-weighted averages.

Acronyms:

- %: percent
- Cl₂: chlorine
- CO: carbon monoxcide
- H₂S: hydrogen sulfide
- HCI: hydrochloric acid
- HCN: hydrogen cyanide
- LEL: lower explosive limit
- mg/m³: milligrams per cubic meter
- O₂: oxygen
- PM_{2.5}: particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less
- PM₁₀: particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers or less
- ppm: parts per million
- VOCs: volatile organic compounds

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4. SUMMARY OF RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

On January 11, 2023, at approximately 09:00, LFD was called to address a fire at the Carus facility, which manufactures environmental products, including potassium permanganate. The La Salle Fire and Police Departments issued a shelter-in-place order for the area surrounding the Site. EPA, IEPA, and START responded to conduct emergency response activities. From January 11 through January 13, 2023, START conducted oversight of emergency response operations, documentation, and air monitoring. Appendix C provides the photographic documentation log, and Appendix D includes START field logbook notes.

Below is a summary of START's emergency response activities:

- On January 11, 2023, START deployed to the Carus facility in La Salle, Illinois and conducted an initial site reconnaissance where discoloration on homes and property was observed. START began roaming air monitoring at discrete locations using a MultiRAE Pro, DustTrak HDRX, and two SPM Flex units to collect ambient air data throughout the community. Over a period of 2 days, START adjusted mobile air monitoring following fire suppression activities by local fire departments and changes in wind direction. START continued periodic roaming air monitoring data collection during 12-hour periods and recorded them in nearly real time via Survey123.
- On January 12, 2023, START revisited properties to review the status of stains and deposits. START continued roaming air monitoring until the fire was fully extinguished and continued to document Site conditions. START discussed air monitoring goals and provided oversight as air monitoring activities were transitioned to Carus. START assisted EPA with an incident transition plan and updates to the response website.
- Finally, on January 13, 2023, START assessed claims of discolored snow near residential properties. START participated in a site walk with EPA, Carus, and the Illinois DNR to document the Site and area conditions. START then demobilized from the Site.

5. REFERENCES

National Response Center. 2023. "Incident Report # 1357481." January 12.

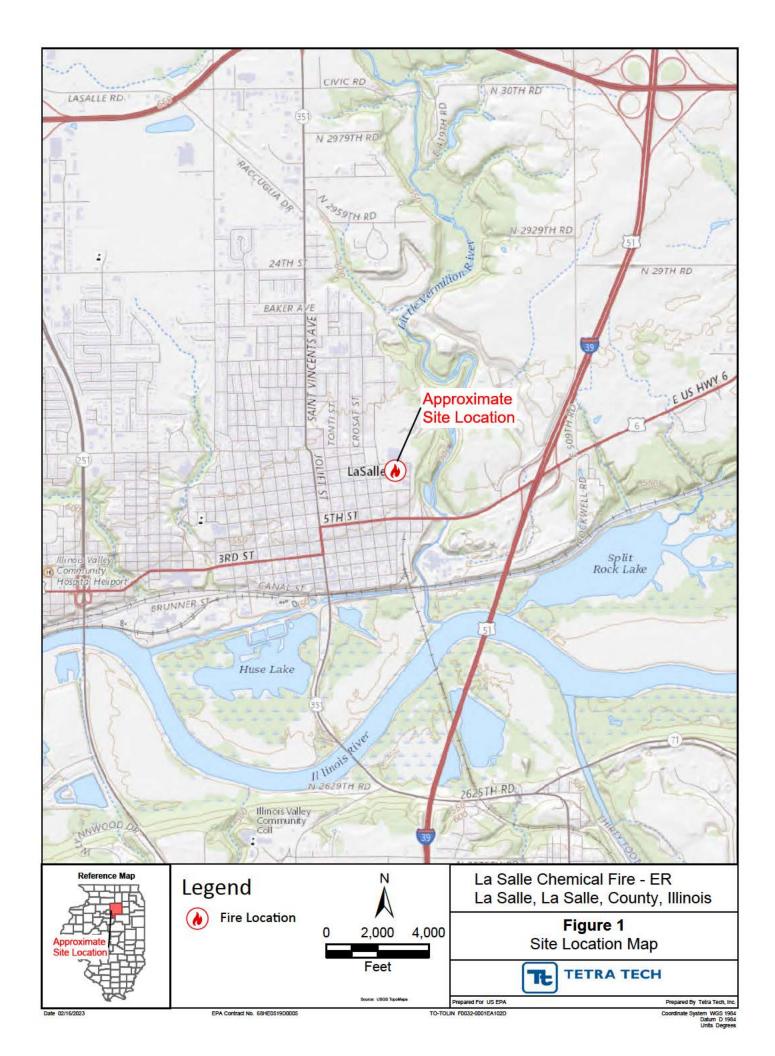
- Tetra Tech. 2022. "Quality Assurance Project Plan." Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START V), Contract 68HE0519D0005, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5. Revision 4. August.
- Tetra Tech. 2023a. "Air Monitoring and Sampling Plan, La Salle Chemical Fire ER." Revision 0. January 11.
- Tetra Tech. 2023b. "Health and Safety Plan, La Salle Chemical Fire ER." Revision 0. January 11.

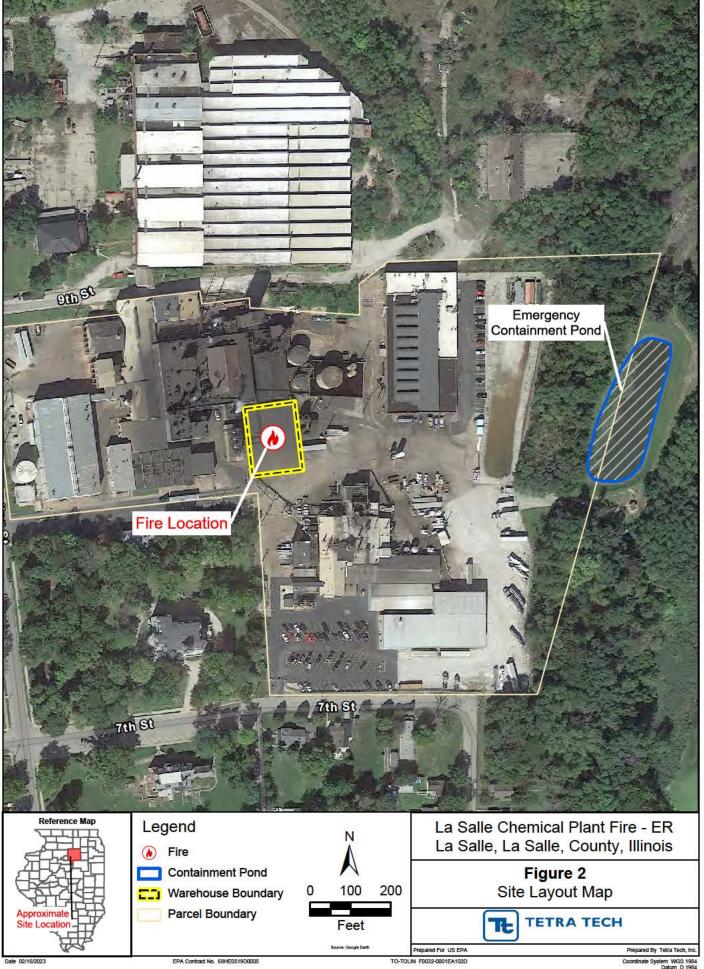
APPENDIX A. FIGURES

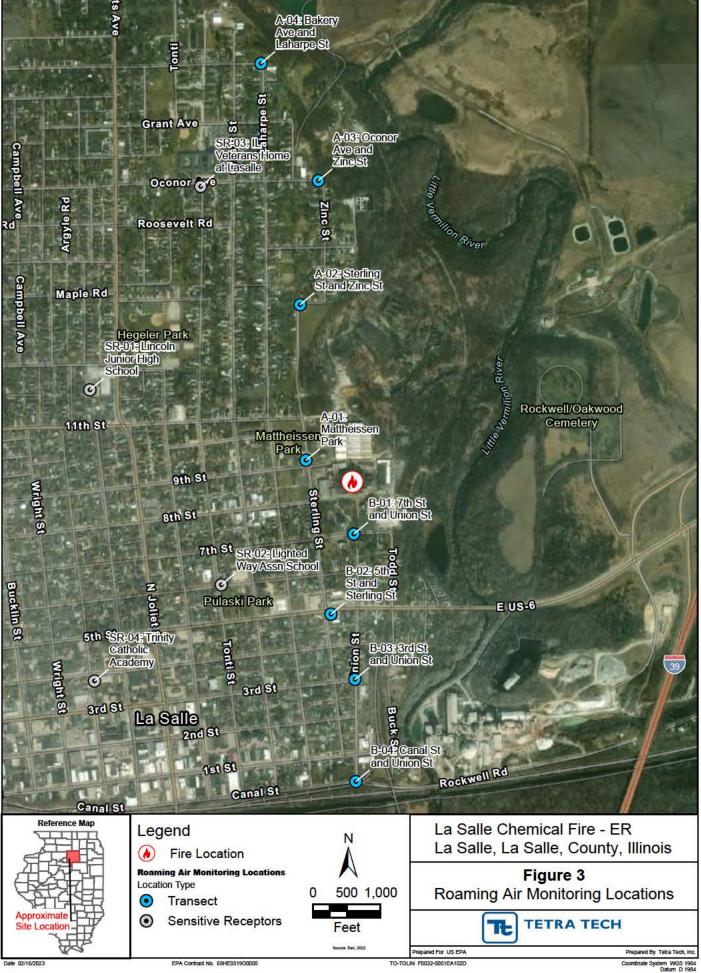
Figure 1 — Site Location Map

Figure 2 — Site Layout Map

Figure 3 — Roaming Air Monitoring Locations







APPENDIX B. TABLES - AIR MONITORING RESULTS SUMMARY

Preliminary Air Monitoring Results Summary Table Monitoring Period: 01/11/2023 16:23 to 01/12/2023 6:03 La Salle Chemical Fire Site Emergency Response La Salle, La Salle County, Illinois

Location	Date/Time	O ₂ (%)	LEL (%)	CO (ppm)	H ₂ S (ppm)	VOC (ppm)	HCl (ppm)	PM ₁₀ (mg/m ³)	PM _{2.5} (mg/m ³)	HCN (ppm)	Cl ₂ (ppm)
Location	Date/Time					Screening	g Levels ¹				
		19.5% to 23.5%	5%	25 ppm	10 ppm	0.5 ppm	2.5 ppm	2.5 mg/m ³	2.5 mg/m ³	5 ppm	0.5 ppm
A-01	1/11/2023 16:23	20 9	0 0	0.0	0 0	0.0	0.0	0 038	0 041	0.5	
	1/11/2023 18:05	20 9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0 045	0 045	0.0	0.0
A-02	1/11/2023 16:48	20 9	0 0	0.0		0 0	0.0	0 035	0 035	0.0	
	1/11/2023 18:32	20 9	0 0	0.0	0 0	0 0	0.0	0 050	0 052	0.0	0 0
A-03	1/11/2023 16:59	20 9	0 0	0.0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 035	0 035	0.0	
	1/11/2023 18:47	20 9	0 0	0.0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 054	0 058	0.0	0 0
A-04	1/11/2023 17:10	20 9	0 0	0.0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 039	0 039	0.0	
	1/11/2023 18:59	20 9	0 0	15 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 065	0 067	0 0	0 0
	1/11/2023 19:27			0 0						-	-
B-01	1/11/2023 22:00	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 053	0 058	0 0	0 0
	1/12/2023 0:45	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 063	0 064	-	0 0
	1/12/2023 2:07	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 057	0 057		0 0
	1/12/2023 3:33		0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 070	0 070		0 0
	1/12/2023 5:26	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 045	0 045		0 0
B-02	1/11/2023 22:31	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 052	0 050	0 0	0 0
	1/12/2023 0:54	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 062	0 063		0 0
	1/12/2023 2:17	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 060	0 060		0 0
	1/12/2023 3:48	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 087	0 087		0 0
	1/12/2023 5:33	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 042	0 042		0 0
B-03	1/11/2023 22:50	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 066	0 067		0 0
	1/12/2023 1:00	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 046	0 047		0 0
	1/12/2023 2:28	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 058	0 058		0 0
	1/12/2023 4:03	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 083	0 085		0 0
	1/12/2023 5:38	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 046	0 046		0 0
B-04	1/11/2023 23:05	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 051	0 052		0 0
	1/12/2023 1:06	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 055	0 055		0 0
	1/12/2023 2:36	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0		0 0	0 1	0 1		0 0
	1/12/2023 4:11		0 0	0 0		0 0	0 0	0 083	0 083		0.0
	1/12/2023 5:43	20 9	0 0	0.0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 034	0 034		0.0
SR-01	1/11/2023 19:40	20 9	0 0	0 0	0.0	0 0	0 0	0 054	0 057	0 0	0 0
SR-02	1/11/2023 23:39	20 9	0 0	0 0	0.0	0.0	0 0	0 068	0 082		0.0
	1/12/2023 1:29	20 9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0 0	0 065	0 065		0.0
	1/12/2023 2:58	20 9	0 0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0 0	0 065	0 070		0.0
	1/12/2023 4:44	20 9	0 0	0.0	0.0	0 0	0 0	0 073	0 074		0.0
	1/12/2023 6:03	20 9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0 0	0 040	0 040		0.0
SR-03	1/11/2023 19:31	20 9	0 0	0.0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 044	0 050	0 0	0.0
SR-04	1/11/2023 23:28	20 9	0 0	0 0	0.0	0.0	0 0	0 051	0 056		0.0
	1/12/2023 1:17	20 9	0 0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0 0	0 053	0 053		0.0
	1/12/2023 2:48	20 9	0 0	0.0	0.0	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 1		0.0
	1/12/2023 4:33	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 071	0 080		0.0
	1/12/2023 5:54	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 040	0 040		0.0

Notes: See last page

Preliminary Air Monitoring Results Summary Table Monitoring Period: 01/11/2023 16:23 to 01/12/2023 6:03 La Salle Chemical Fire Site Emergency Response La Salle, La Salle County, Illinois

Notes:

There were no detections above screening levels during the monitoring period (see above)

The fire was extinguished and smoldering by the evening hours of 1/11/2023

¹ The preliminary screening levels used are one half of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) OSHA PELs are regulatory limits on the amount or concentration of a substance in the air meant to protect workers against the health effects of exposure to hazardous substances. The OSHA PEL for Particulates Not Otherwise Regulated (PNOR) respirable fraction was used for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. The OSHA PEL for benzene was used for VOC measurements

% - percent

Cl₂ - chlorine

CO - carbon monoxide

H₂S - hydrogen sulfide

HCl - hydrogen chloride

HCN - hydrogen cyanide

LEL - lower explosive limit

mg/m³ - milligrams per cubic meter

O₂ - oxygen

PM_{2.5} - particles that are 2.5 micrometers and smaller

PM₁₀ - particles that are 10 micrometers and smaller

ppm - parts per million

VOC - volatile organic compounds

The maximum result measured at each location during the monitoring period 01/11/2023 16:23 to 01/12/2023 6:03 is shown in the table

Preliminary Air Monitoring Results Summary Table Monitoring Period: 01/12/2023 08:35 to 01/12/2023 13:04 La Salle Chemical Fire Site Emergency Response La Salle, La Salle County, Illinois

There were no detections above screening levels during the monitoring period (see below) Air monitoring did not show any levels of concern The data below were taken at the fire site and in the surrounding community, following wind patterns EPA screened for known chemicals that were at the site and particulate matter from the fire The map shows the monitoring locations

		O ₂ (%)	LEL (%)	CO (ppm)	H ₂ S (ppm)	VOC (ppm)	HCl (ppm)	PM ₁₀ (mg/m ³)	PM _{2.5} (mg/m ³)	HCN (ppm)	Cl ₂ (ppm)
Location	Location Date/Time Screening Levels ¹										
		19.5% to 23.5%	5%	25 ppm	10 ppm	0.5 ppm	2.5 ppm	2.5 mg/m ³	2.5 mg/m ³	5 ppm	0.5 ppm
B-01	1/12/2023 8:35	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 038	0 038	0.0	0 0
	1/12/2023 10:10	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 017	0 017	0.0	0 0
	1/12/2023 11 07	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 016	0 016	0 0	0 0
	1/12/2023 12 08	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 010	0 010	0 0	0 0
B-02	1/12/2023 8:42	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 034	0 035	0 0	0 0
	1/12/2023 10:16	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 015	0 015	0 0	0 0
	1/12/2023 11:14	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 016	0 016	0 0	0 0
	1/12/2023 12:22	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 009	0 009	0.0	0 0
B-03	1/12/2023 10:31	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0			0.0	0 0
	1/12/2023 11:22	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0.0	0 0	0 016	0 016	0 0	0 0
	1/12/2023 12:53	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 015	0 015	0.0	0 0
B-04	1/12/2023 9:12	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 030	0 030	0.0	0 0
	1/12/2023 10:39	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 015	0 015	0.0	0.0
	1/12/2023 11:27		0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 014	0 014	0.0	0 0
	1/12/2023 13 04	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 013	0 013	0.0	0 0
SR-02	1/12/2023 10:48	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0.0	0 0	0 014	0 014	0.0	0.0
SR-04	1/12/2023 10:56	20 9	0 0	0 0	0 0	0.0	0 0	0 014	0 014	0.0	0.0

Notes:

The fire was extinguished on the morning of 1/12/2023

% - percent

Cl₂ - chlorine

CO - carbon monoxide

H₂S - hydrogen sulfide

HCl - hydrogen chloride

HCN - hydrogen cyanide

LEL - lower explosive limit

mg/m³ - milligrams per cubic meter

O₂ - oxygen

PM_{2.5} - particles that are 2.5 micrometers and smaller

PM₁₀ - particles that are 10 micrometers and smaller

ppm - parts per million

VOC - volatile organic compounds

The maximum result measured at each location during the monitoring period 01/12/2023 08:35 to 01/12/2023 13 04 is shown in the table

¹ The preliminary screening levels used are one half of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) OSHA PELs are regulatory limits on the amount or concentration of a substance in the air meant to protect workers against the health effects of exposure to hazardous substances. The OSHA PEL for Particulates Not Otherwise Regulated (PNOR) respirable fraction was used for PM₁₀ and PM₂₅. The OSHA PEL for benzene was used for VOC measurements

APPENDIX C. PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION LOG

PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Photograph 1

Date: January 11, 2023

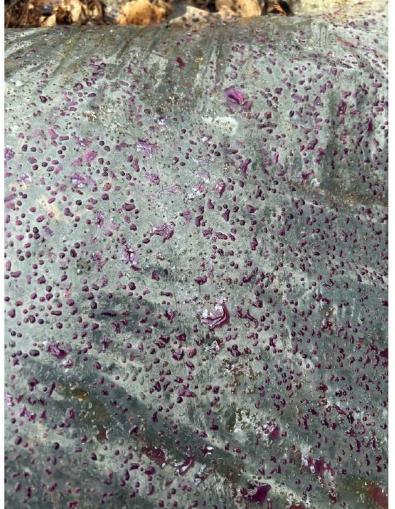
Description: Firefighter activity at the Carus
Chemical Company facility.



Photograph 2

Date: January 11, 2023
Description:
Superfund Technical
Assessment and
Response Team
(START) personnel
monitoring air near the
southern portion of the
La Salle Chemical Fire
site (the Site)





Photograph 3
Date: January 12, 2023
Description:
Potassium
permanganate deposits
in a residential yard
northwest of the Site



Photograph 4

Date: January 12, 2023

Description: View of the burned area at the Site



Photograph 5 Date: January 11, 2023 Description: Potassium permanganate deposits on a residential

sidewalk northwest of

the Site



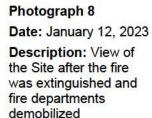
Photograph 6 Date: January 12, 2023 Description: Potassium permanganate deposits on a pool in a residential yard northwest of the Site



Photograph 7

Date: January 12, 2023

Description:
Potassium
permanganate deposits
on a resident's car
northwest of the Site





Photograph 9
Date: January 12, 2023

Description:
Potassium
permanganate deposits
on a bucket in a
residential yard
northwest of the Site



Photograph 10
Date: January 11, 2023
Description:
Potassium
permanganate deposits
on a residential mailbox
northwest of the Site



Photograph 11

Date: January 13, 2023
Description: Burned area at the Site, which included the shipping warehouse where the fire started



Photograph 12 Date: January 13, 2023 Description: Puddles of water with potassium permanganate observed at the Site near the burned area



Photograph 13

Date: January 13, 2023

Description:

Potassium permanganate observed in firefighting runoff, which pooled in a low-lying area approximately 250 feet east of the warehouse

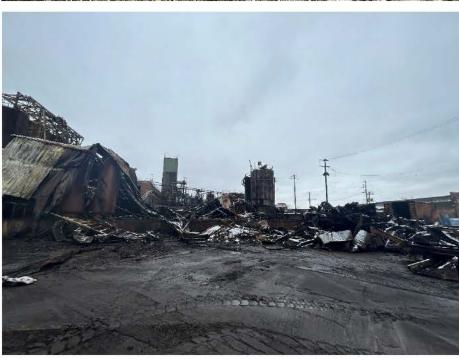


Photograph 14 Date: January 13, 2023 Description: Water in the emergency containment pond at the Site after the fire was extinguished





Photograph 15
Date: January 13, 2023
Description: Outfall to the emergency containment pond for the Site



Photograph 16
Date: January 13, 2023
Description:
Remaining debris within

the burned area

APPENDIX D. START LOGBOOK FIELD NOTES



CARUS CHEMICAL FIRE ER LOGBOOK #1/1 INCH



Name PM- ALEXIS ENRIGHT

Address _____

Phone

Project CARUS CHEMICAL FIRE ER
103X903100320001 EA102

1/11/23 - 1/13/23

CONTENTS

PAGE	REFERENCE	DATE
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CHEM FIRE 1/11/23 3
NO WAS TASKED EMICAL/SOUR ISH SMELL AT A03 IF ITS SITE/FIRE RELATED. WEAR WHAT APPERS TO BE
MALL, SPECKLED) DEPOSITS SEEN NO. CAR, ETC. NO GREEN -INDINDUAL SPARY WATERS MIXTURE PREVIOUSLY ON
ROWN SMALLSPECKLED MATERIAL
D. SURPACES - ALGO OILY AREAS THE BROWN SPECIS - 659 OW MAIL BOX - NO G. REEN MATERIAL RTY Non-Responsive - Personal Privacy Information PROPERTIES.
RELEASE SUMMARY TABLES BORE EVING TONIGHT LEVERY 12 HB TOM SECOND ROUND OF ROAMING SEPOSITSON STALT VAN. NO TRANSELT A AGAIN W SPM PLEXM FLOXIDIZER
٦

41/11/23	CARUS CHEMICAL FIRE
	TAPE FOR CHLORINE
1920	ODDLY HIGH MULTIRAT CO & FAMILY
	(15 ppm) START FRESHAIR UNIT UPWIND
1930	RE-MONITORING ADA. CO READING
	Oppm-CHANGED SURVEY FORM
1935	SECOND A TRANSECT COMPLETED, MOUNG
	TO SRO3
1950	SPOI COMPLETED
2000	STAKT N. BUYER IJ. SANDERS ON SITE.
	MEETING W/ R. KONDERN EPA OSC
	START MLL CONT. LIGHT AR ROAMING
	LOCATIONS - WAND SHIPTED, NOW FROM N.
	MEL PLAN TO WAS SAMPLE . POTENTIALLY
	WATER SAMPLE TOM POTENTIANY CAST/OALY
1 1 1 2 1 2 1 1	MGHT FOR NIGHT OPS.
2100	START A. Enright & H. Four not OFF site.
2145	EPAR. Kondleck OFF site.
2200	Transect B air roaming started,
7312	Transcot B air rooming completed.
2370	SRO4 airmonitoring
2340	Show Lighted way air minitoring.
0030	Transect Bair rooming Startel ->
0115	SROH Tinitz Catholic Academy dispressions.
Sale is	Show Fight of was all molitaring states.
0200	Transact Bail Maning STAVER.
0240	Francet Bail Fooring completes

1/12/23 CARVS CHEMICAL PIRE 0245 5R64 al minitaling. 0255 SR 62 al minitaring. 0330 Transect Bail roaning Started. 0420 Transect Bair roaming conpleted .-0425 SRO4 air monitoring. 0440 5R02 ail mon: toling. 0525 Transect Baik roaming started. 0545 Transect Bair roaming complete 0550 SRO4 air non: toring 0600 SROZ air monitoring 0655 EPAR. Kondlech on site -0700 START A Enright & H. Fornet onsite 0730 START J. SANDERS + N. BOYEA OFFITT 0730 OSC R. KONDRECK REQUESTS START TO RENIST & PROPERTIES FROM YES TERDAY (PORTER, CROSAT, LAHARPE) TO ASSESS STATUS OF DEPOSITS + (DENTIFY ANY eHANGES. ++F ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES: OSC KONDREC HAS ASKED START TO CONDUCT WATER SAMPLING IN ME RO CARUS WASTEWATER & VERMILLION RIVER TO TEST FOR PRESENCE OF POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE + OXIDIZED FORMS, WILL CONTINUE AIR MONITORING AT TRANSECTS. FIRE IS STILL SMOLDERING. THE RELIEF

6 W/Hn	2/23 CARUS CHEM FIRE	Care 7
. 01111	TOR. STIBLE CLOUDY HUM 973 WALD ALKEL	1/12/23 CARUS CHEMICAL FIRE
0740	START CHECKS DEPOSITS AT	DOZD TRANSECT B COMPLETED
	MINIMAL BROWN SPOTS - APPEARS OWNER!	DOCK START CALL- WARRING ON LABS FOR
	HAVE SPRAYED POWN YARD. SOME SPOTS	WATER + MPE SAMPLES, TRYING, TO
	on GUTTER. NO VISIBLE DAMAGE, ONLY	DETERMINE A WIPE SAMPLE PROCEDURE
	MMMAL STAINING. HF	FOR POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE LOXIDIZED
0745	7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	FORMS. C. RENNER DRIVING DOWN EOUP. (PFOS + MPE SAMPUNG SUPPLIES + HAZCAT
	BEEN SPRAYED DOWN BUT REMAINING	(PFDS - WIPG SAMPANIA SOLI SEE
	SPOTS ON PLASTIC FILM APPEAR TO HAVE	1005 START CONT. AIR ROAMING ON TRASECTS
	OXIDIZED INTO A PINK/PURPLISH COLOR.	SUGHT SNOKE ODOR AT BO!
9800	HOMEOWNER SID NOT	1020 OFC KONDRECK REQUESTS START CONT.
	SPRAY SOUN OF WATER VIN AYD PEROX DE	AIR MONITORING AT LOCATIONS, WAITING TO
	TURNED TO PINK-SURFACES ARE DAMP	HAVE MOSTINGS TO DECIDE WHAT / IF
	TROM DEW/HUMIDITY HOMEOWNER SAID HU	SAMPLING MILL OCCUR
	CAR WAS COVERED IN THE BROWN DEPOTITS.	1115 SROILSROZ WI AR MOMTORING BOUTE
-	HE SPRAYED MINDSHIELD - MA W PLUID +	COMPLETED TRANSECT &
	MATERIAL TURNED A GREENCH BROWN	1120 START RETURNS TO
10.00	COLOR. POOL WAS AFFECTED - WAS VERY	CLEAR CHANGES TO CONDITIONS / DEPOSITED
	PINK - NOW FADED INTO A GREEN/BROWN-	MATERIAL REMAINS BROWN, NO HOLES IN
	UNCLEAR HOW GREEN IT WAS ELFORE.	MATERIALS
	PINK APPEARING ON PLASTICE METAL NOT	1130 STARTAT AT SOLLAR COND. TO
	THE GROUND/GRASS	FARLE BRUER, PLASTIC M PINK MATERIAL
0825	START CAUBRATING EQUIPMENT TO BEGIN	MAS REMOVED DURING TRASH COLLECTIONS.
	AIR MON. DOWN WIND - TRASECT B	- PINK MATERIAL
0835	BUI - STRONG SMOKE O DOR CLOSE TO FACILITY	OBSERVED EARLIER CHANGED BACK TO
	ENTRANCE - FIRE STILL SMOLDERING	BROWN POOL NO LONGER A PINKISH

8 (112/23 CARUS CHEMICAL ARE
	GREEN HUE. DEPORTED MATERIALON
	THE GROUND/DRIVEWAY REMAINS SIMILAR
	TO PREVIOUS STATE, NO CORROSION
	OBSERVED NEAR MIKS SMALL DOG GOT
	OUT OF HOUSE-ACTING VORY AGGRESSIVE
1210	NEW ROUND OF AIR MONITORING -
	TRANSECT 8. NO SMOKE ODOR AT BOI. WIND NOW NNU 17 mpl
J310	EPA ANTICIPATES WE WILL HAND OFF
	AIR MONITURING TO CARUS ENV. LONIRAGE
	OR TODAY-THEY WILL CONT. WPERIMETER
	MONITORING. START WILL MEETIN/ HEPCO
	TO ENSURE THEY RE USING THE SAME
	PARAMETERS START MAY LONDULT POVCE-
	LINE MONTORING
1330	TRANSECT B COMPLETE. C. RENNER ON SITE
	1 HAZCAT KITS + PFDS . ETC .
1400	TESTING DEPOSITED MATERIAL -
	SCEAPED MATERIAL FROM SURPACES TESTED IN
	OXIDIZER TAPE. MATERIAL REACTED - DARK BLUE
*	PURPLE WLOR
1500	C. RENNER OFFSITE H START N BOYEN +
	J SANDERS ON SITE, WU DETERMINE IF THEY
	MUDEMOB OR STAY ON FOR NIGHT ORS -
1530	DISCUSSED W EPA OSC KONDRECK:
	PIRE OFFICIALLY OUT AT 12:35 -HANDED

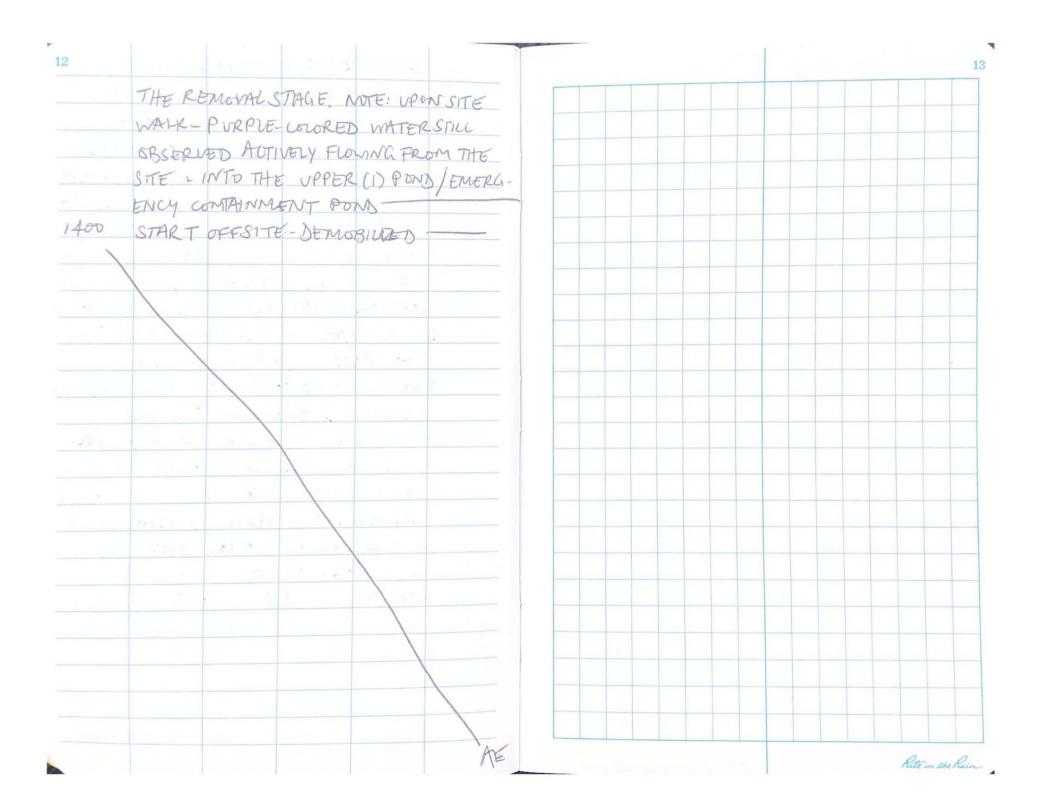
1/12/23 CARUS CHEMICAL PIRE

BACK THE FACILITY TO CARUS. -HEPACO (CARUS' ENVIRONMENTAL CON-TRACTOR) WILL TAKE OVER AIR MONT-ORING AT THE FACILITY PERIMETERY PENCE LINE. START WILL MEET W/ HEPACO TO DISCUSS AIR MONITORING PLAN/GOALS. ILLINOIS EPA WILL CONDUCT WIPE SAMPLING, RIVER WATER + WASTEWATER SAMPLING, + POSSIBLY SOIL SAMPLING @ -AFFECTED PROPERTIES. START WILL NOT BE TASKED W/ SAMPLING. MIGHT OPS (START J. SANDERS + N. BOYEA) DISCHARGED. START H. FOURNET & A. ENRIGHT WILL REMAIN ONSITE TO COLLECT DOCUMENTATION + OVERSES HEPACO. REMOVAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE CONDUCTED ATTHE FACILITY - A RETENTION POND MY 200,000 GAL OF RUNOFF MLL BE PUMPED INTO FRACTANKS/VACTRUCKS FOR DISPOSAL / TREATMENT 18 00 START IS ASSISTING EPA W/ PUTTING TOGETHER INCEDENT TRANSITION PLAN AND RESPONSE. GOV WEBSITE. -

20 00 START + EPA OFFSITE.

· Rete in the Rem

CATALYST WERE NOT AFFECTED. CARUS CONTRACTORS WILL PUMP CONTAMINATED WATER OUT OF RETENT-ION PONDS + COLLECT SOIL SAMPLES FROM BOTTOM OF PONDS - 2 PONDS -UPPER & LOWER OPPER POND VISIBLY PURPLE, AFFECTED W/ KM nOy, LOWER POND DID NOT APPEAR TO BE AFFECTED. UPPER POND (AFFECTED) HAS A NPDES PERMIT BUT IS TYPICALLY DRY. LOWER POND HAS 2 OUTFALLS INTO THE VERMILLION RIVER, WHICH IT IS ADJACENT TO. OUTFALLS ARE CLOSED. THIRD POND AT HIGHEST LEVEL (SAME LVL AS CARUS FACILITIES) MAS NOT BEEN USED IN 20+ YRS, BUT ## RUNOFF ACCUMULATED IN IT + IS VISIBLY contaminaTED. BERM constructED W/ SAND TO CONTAIN WATER ADDTUL BERM CONSTRUCTED TO PIRECT FLOW OF RUNOFF INTO UPPER POND(1). (PON)(2) LUNE CPOND CD-UPPER IS THE EMERGENCY CONTAINMENT POND. (2) LOWER POND WAS NOT VISIBLY IMPACTED HISTORICALLY USED CONTAINMENT POND NEAR BUIDINGS 15 ~250 FT FROM BURN AREA) LASALLE CHEMICAL FIRE WILL NOW GO INTORIO MERCALINA



ATTACHMENT 1. INTERAGENCY MODELING AND ATMOSPHERIC ASSESSMENT CENTER REPORTS

CUI Date: 11JAN2023 1710Z

Version: Update A

Changes: Extended Fire to 24h





Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center

REAL WORLD

Fire at 1500 8th Street, La Salle, IL

(RFI 23-0013aU)

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POC: RD-OPR, 703-767-3445



Request Summary

Whatesta and Attention of the	
Requestor	Corey Peaslee, EPA Region 5
Contact information	312-919-4382 and 312-758-0604
	Peasele.corey@epa.gov
Request	Model the ongoing fire at 1500 8 th Street, La Salle, IL
Employment	Real World
Hazards	Soot from a fire at Carus Chemical Plant
Location	La Salle, IL
	Coordinates: 41.337145° N/89.086494° W)
Weather	High Resolution Numerical Weather Prediction: 3 km NAM from NCEP (CONUS)
Incident Date & Time	11JAN2023
	1500Z (0900 Local)
Executive Summary	The soot from the fire is modeled to go in NW for a distance of approx. 600 meters.
	Outputs are provided each 6 hours to 24 hours. A Charmoniative decays fortunist is provided an alide 7. This fortunist illustrates the
	 A 6 hour cumulative dosage footprint is provided on slide 7. This footprint illustrates the general area of concern, and does not necessarily indicate adverse health effects unless that person is assumed to be standing still for 6 hours.



Modeling Assumptions

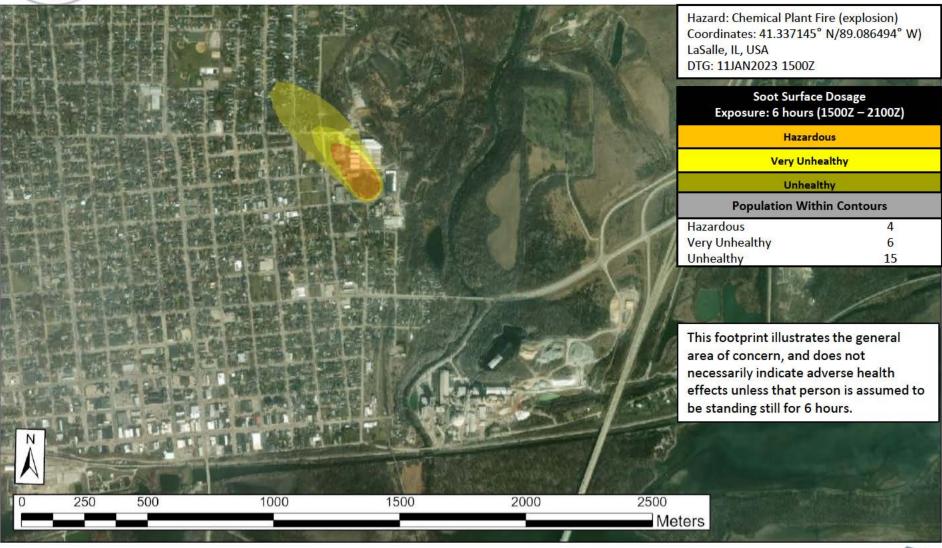
- Soot production from the burning material is modeled and represented in the following slides.
- Hazards from any specific chemical releases are not accounted for in this product, unless it is known a specific chemical is stored on site.
- There appears to be permanganates and possibly chlorine at the facility. The
 chlorine appears to be in the form of hypochlorite, which is unlikely to be a major
 downwind hazard (depending on quantities present). The permanganates are
 also unlikely to be a major airborne hazard, but could accelerate the fire.
- It is assumed the fire continues ongoing to 1500Z 12JAN.
- The area of the burn is modeled to be small fire. This will primarily affect the shape of the vertical profile.
- Modeling assumes the fire is burning at a fixed rate, beginning at 1500Z until the time shown in the plots.
- Dosage plots are shown to provide the health hazard in the area. Transmission and vertical concentration plots are provided to model the vertical profile of the visual smoke.
- Current status of the fire is unknown, but appears to have diminished compared to earlier in the day.



- Winds are currently from southerly directions (i.e., blowing from S to N)
- Winds should shift to westerly directions (blowing W to E) sometime in the 4 – 5 PM timeframe.
- Winds will shift to out of the NW about 6 PM, give or take an hour, then from due N by about midnight.
- Winds from the N should continue until mid-morning tomorrow.

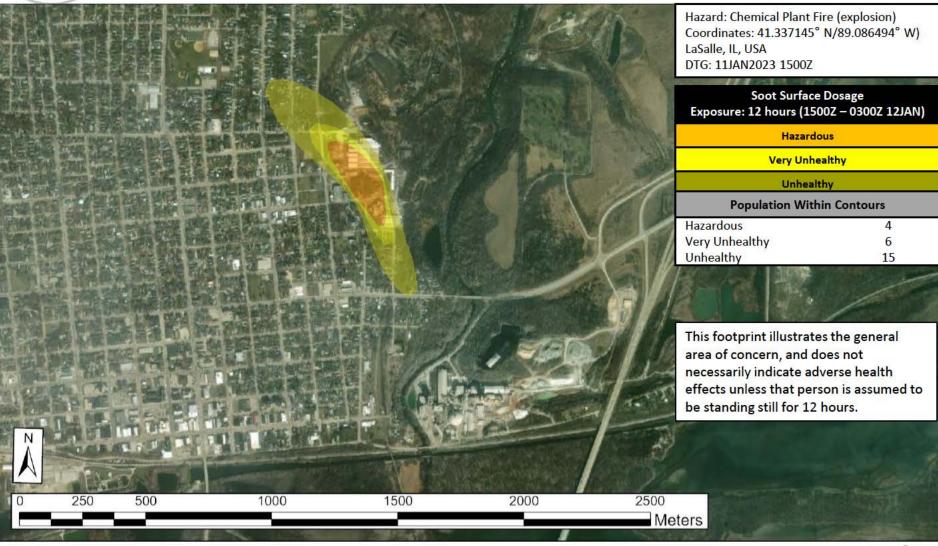


Soot – Surface Dosage – 1500 CST



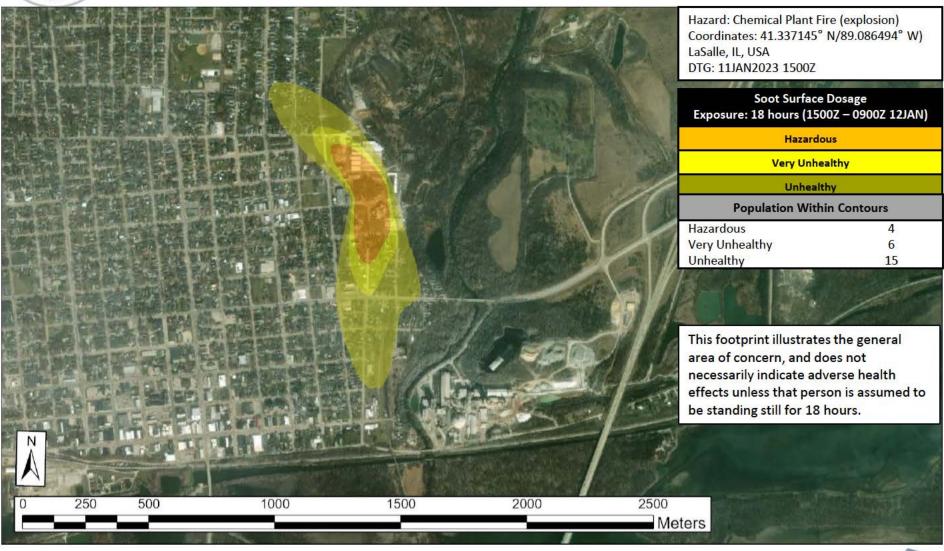


Soot – Surface Dosage – 2100 CST



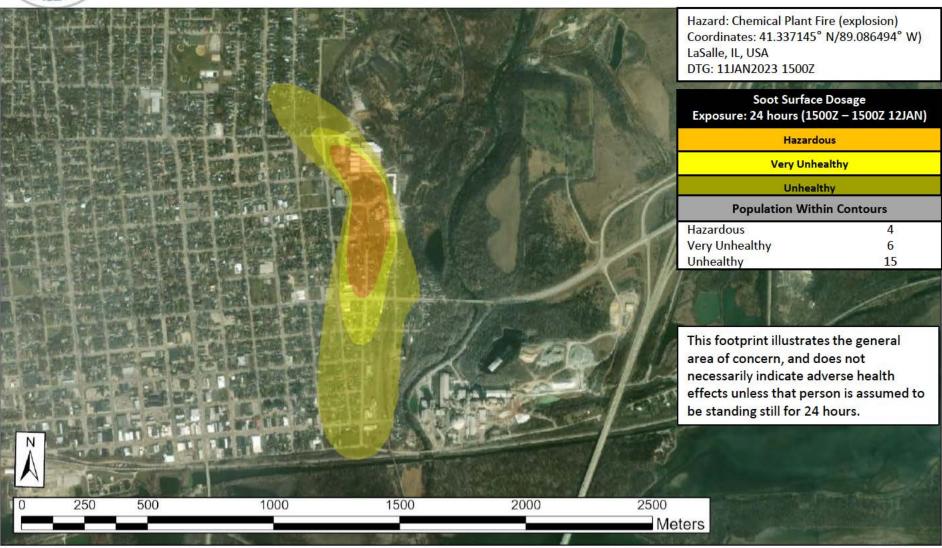


Soot – Surface Dosage – 0300 CST 12JAN





Soot – Surface Dosage – 0900 CST 12JAN





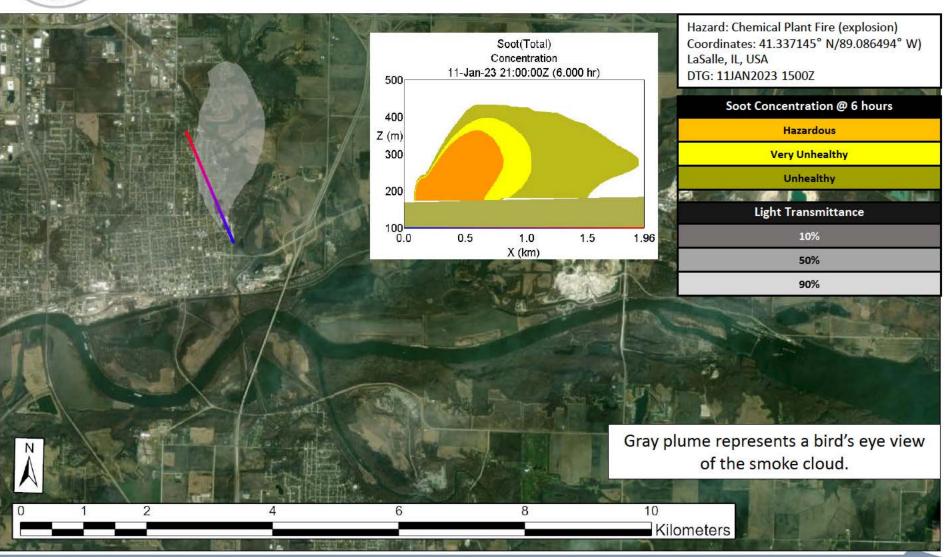
Soot – Surface Dosage

Value	Description
Hazardous	Serious aggravation of heart or lung disease and premature mortality in people with cardiopulmonary disease and older adults; serious risk of respiratory effects in general population. Everyone should avoid all physical activity
Very Unhealthy	Significant aggravation of heart or lung disease and premature mortality in people with cardiopulmonary disease and older adults; significant increase in respiratory effects in general population. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors; everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy	Increased aggravation of heart or lung disease and premature mortality in people with cardiopulmonary disease and older adults; increased respiratory effects in general population. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion; everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.

Cumulative dosage values based on exposure to 2.5um particulate matter. Concentration values and descriptions taken from Pollutant-Specific Sub-indices and Health Effects Statements and Cautionary Statements for Guidance on the Air Quality Index tables, in Guidelines for Reporting of Daily Air Quality – Air Quality Index (AQI), USEPA, EPA-454/B-06-001, May 2006.

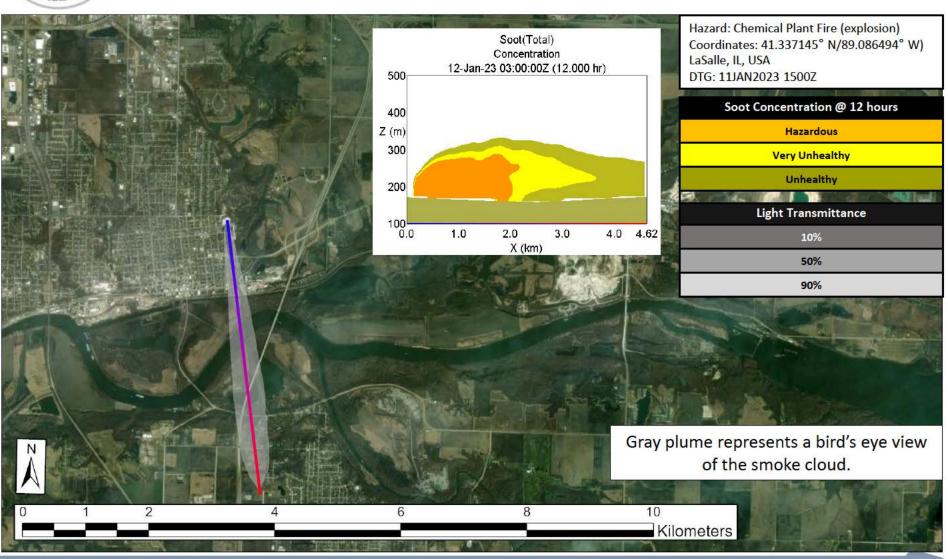


Soot - 1500 CST - Vertical Profile



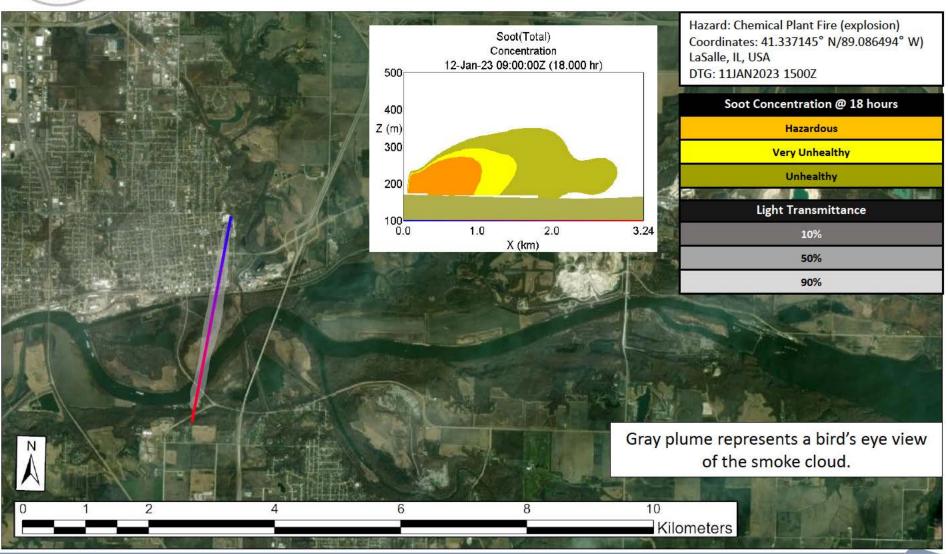


Soot - 2100 CST - Vertical Profile





Soot - 0300 CST 12JAN - Vertical Profile





Soot - 0900 CST 12JAN - Vertical Profile

